



32692

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent
Case No.: 48317US028

3761

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: JAPUNTICH, DANIEL A.

Application No.: 09/680465

Group Art Unit: 3761

Filed: October 6, 2000

Examiner: Aaron J. Lewis

Title: FIBROUS FILTRATION FACE MASK HAVING A NEW
UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVEAMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTERCommissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:

January 31, 2003

Date

Signed by: Susan M. Dacko

Attached is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee for this amendment is computed as follows:

Claims As Amended						
(1)	(2) Claims Remaining After Amendment	(3)	(4) Highest No. Previously Paid For	(5) Present Extra	(6) Rate	(7) Additional Fee
Total Claims	46	Minus	** 45	1	x \$18.00	\$ 18.00
Independent Claims	4	Minus	*** 3	1	x \$84.00	\$ 84.00
Additional fee for filing one or more multiple dependent claims, if no such fee has been previously paid					\$280.00	
Total Additional Fee For This Amendment →						\$ 102.00
** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" in this space would be less than 20, write "20" in this space.						
*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" in this space would be less than 3, write "3" in this space.						

Please charge to Deposit Account 13-3723 any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

January 31, 2003

Date

By:

Karl G. Hanson, Reg. No.: 32,900

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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
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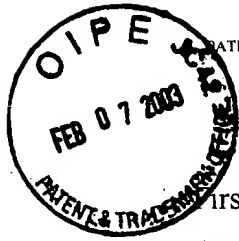


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Application No.: 09/680465 Group Art Unit: 3761
Filed: October 6, 2000 Examiner: Aaron J. Lewis
Title: FIBROUS FILTRATION FACE MASK HAVING A NEW
UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVE

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Signed by: Susan M. Dacko

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2002, please amend this application as set forth below.

In the Specification:

Page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 15 and ending at line 26 with the following paragraph:

When a wearer of a filtering face mask 10 exhales, exhaled air passes through the mask body 12 and exhalation valve 14. Comfort is best obtained when a high percentage of the exhaled air passes through exhalation valve 14, as opposed to the filter media of mask body 12. Exhaled air is expelled through valve 14 by having the exhaled air lift flexible flap 24 from valve seat 26. Flexible flap 24 is attached to valve seat 26 at a first portion 28 of flap 24, and the remaining circumferential edge of flexible flap 24 is free to be lifted from valve seat 26 during exhalation. As the term is used herein, "flexible" means the flap can deform or bend in the form of a self-supporting arc when secured at one end as a cantilever, exposed to gravity, and viewed from a side elevation (see e.g., FIG. 6). A flap that is not self-supporting will tend to drape towards the ground at about 90 degrees from the horizontal.

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